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**THE KEYSTONE**

# Defender

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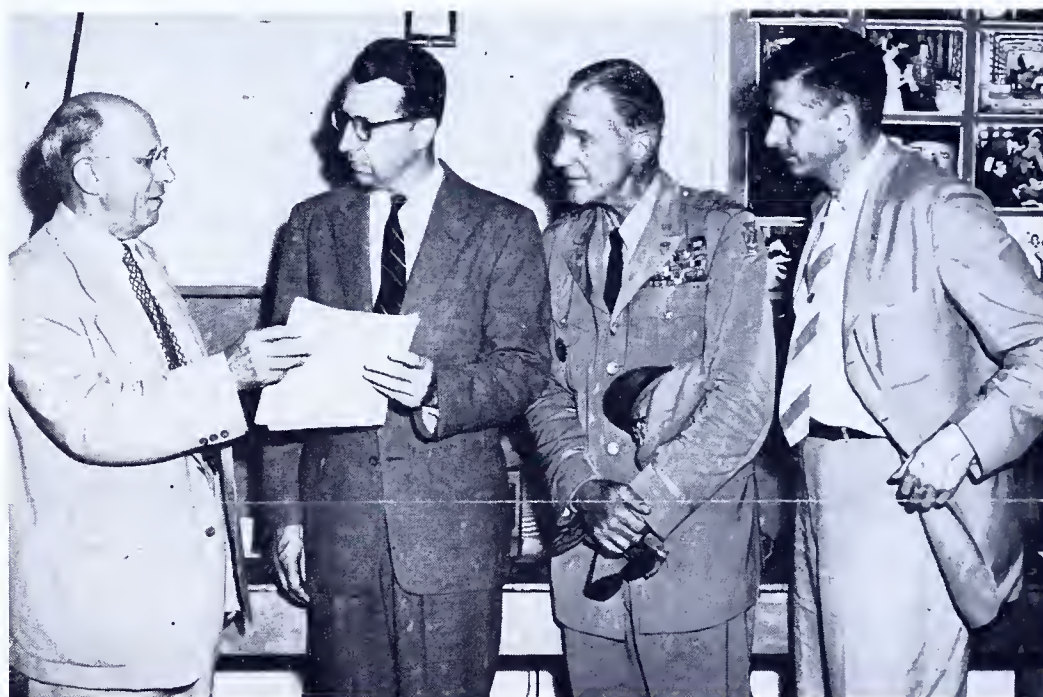
STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE, HARRISBURG, PA.

OCTOBER, 1955

## CIVIL DEFENSE BATTLES GREATEST FLOOD

THE MOST devastating flood in eastern Pennsylvania's history swept along streams of the Delaware River watershed on August 18th. Civil Defense at state, county and local levels rolled up the sleeves and, along with Red Cross, Army and government officials, waded into tasks of rescue, police work, debris-cleaning, welfare work, and in some places, unfortunately — burying the dead.

Civil Defense emerged a stronger, more widely-accepted organization. In flood areas, the recruiting job will be easier. Definitely, civil defense proved



Governor George M. Leader visits Monroe County Civil Defense Control Center 18 hours after the historic flood. L. to R.: Judge Fred W. Davis, Monroe CD Director; Governor Leader; Adjutant General A. J. D. Biddle, Jr.; Secretary of Forests and Waters Maurice K. Goddard.

### A Word From the Governor

PERSONAL observations in flood-stricken communities of the Commonwealth leave me with two vivid, enduring impressions.

First is memory of the devastation, the sad sight of shattered homes and unfortunate flood-victims.

The next impression, far more pleasing to contemplate, is that of people working together courageously to fight this disaster.

Many of these brave volunteers who rescued people, cleaned muck and debris, fed and clothed homeless, did emergency repair work—yes, and who searched for the dead in some hard-hit localities—were civil defense workers.

The actions of these unselfish workers are worthy of the highest praise. With great pride I offer them the thanks of the Commonwealth and commend them for a job well-done.

GEORGE M. LEADER

itself a most necessary and, studied as a volunteer group, an amazingly fast-moving, efficient organization.

One of the most urgent, perhaps most important, events occurred at Pennington Island on the Delaware, located about three miles above New Hope, Bucks County. It was discovered by the State Council of Civil Defense sometime in the black morning hours of August 19 that an unknown number of children, believed to be about 300, were on three small islands of the Delaware, chiefly Pennington and Treasure Islands.

This discovery came about the time of the first news of the Pocono Mountain disaster. It was known then that Brodhead Creek of that region had crested at 33 feet, two and a half times the greatest known previous height.

Soon that Brodhead water would be

sweeping down on these islands and these children. The Eastern Area Director, State Civil Defense was ordered to Pennington Island.

The role of the "ham" radio operator in a disaster was never better demonstrated than at Pennington Island. The region was wooded, roads flooded, telephones not available. Col. Arthur Heritage, alert Bucks County C. D. Director, stationed Bradley C. Algeo, Jr. W3EM, at the scene, "tied in" with Frank Fenimore, W3HFD, Arch Robertson, W3MVG, Elwyne Mulherin, W3SSU, and Stuart Wilson, W3FUY, Bucks County Civil Defense. Thus with the available telephones of Heritage's office, Jack Anderson of Eastern Area was in communication with Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Civil Defense Director.

(Continued on next page)



# GREATEST FLOOD

(Continued from page 1)

By 9:30 A. M. August 19, it seemed evident to the Eastern Area Director that the children on Pennington Island were in real danger. Already the island was flooded except for a high center mound on which most of the camp buildings were located and on which counselors and children were waiting for rescue. A group of Army engineers from Fort Dix had been reported by amateur radio operators as "on the way" three hours earlier. Messengers including two cars of the New Jersey State Police were dispatched but could find no evidence of this convoy.

By 11 A. M. the river had arisen another 4 feet, and the situation was regarded as critical. In the meantime, Brad Algeo had left the scene to give information to the Pennsylvania State Police and the Eastern Area Director found himself without precious radio contact.

Two youths, Charles L. Zearfoss, Tinicum, and Robert Lerch, Pipersville, R. D. No. 1 were sent by private car to dispatch a message to Dr. Gerstell at Harrisburg. This message asked for immediate helicopter evacuation of Pennington Island.

In the meantime Treasure Island officials were performing an evacuation there by barge. Roads between Pennington and Treasure Island, however, were flooded so that these same barges could not proceed up the river. Bucks County commissioners, on recommendation of Col. Heritage, dispatched tractors to Treasure Island to see if the barges could be moved through flooded roads. In the meantime, the



(U. S. Navy Photo)

Arrival of the first helicopter at Pennington Island, August 19. Note the water encroaching on the last dry area of the camp (left center of picture).

Eastern Area Director enlisted the support of the Delaware Valley Volunteer Fire Company, Erwinna to stand by with motor boats for a desperate try at evacuation if helicopters failed to arrive.

By this time the Delaware was a swirling, debris-choked flood. Full grown oak and maple trees were sweeping past, making travel by boat next to impossible. It was a welcome sight to the few persons gathered opposite the bank of Pennington Island when the first helicopter from Lakehurst arrived. Soon eight more helicopters were participating in the evacuation and alert auxiliary volunteers of the fire company already had set up feeding kitchens to receive the young guests.

On one of the first helicopters a counselor uttered the words—"Thank God for Civil Defense." More recently the mother of one of the campers said to an official—"My daughter was on Pennington Island, how can I ever thank Civil Defense?"

The evacuation was completed without injury or incident, by mid-afternoon. It wasn't long after that the Island was inundated.

\* \* \*

It was about 8 P. M. on the night of August 18 that the State Council of Civil Defense realized after a teletype report from the Weather Bureau that a serious flood was at hand. Based on late reports, Civil Defense Directors along the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers were given warnings. By 8:30 P. M. a report of serious flooding at Tamaqua was in and Hugh Hoke of the State Council was sent to the scene

as a field contact.

Fortunately, the Schuylkill flood, while serious, did not cause the anticipated "history-breaking damage." There was flooding at Reading and at Norristown and both Berks County Civil Defense and Montgomery County Civil Defense were mobilized and active. Perkiomen Creek in Montgomery County went over its banks as did Neshaminy Creek in Bucks County.

In the Neshaminy Creek flood, two rafts carrying a total of 8 sailors were swept downstream while attempting to rescue a woman from a tree. The sailors were rescued; tragically, the woman eventually was lost.

The prediction of record floods by the Weather Bureau was based on an expected "rain-cell" but until the morning of August 19, it was not known definitely where most of the expected rain had fallen. The trouble center proved to be the Pocono Mountain region, where 10.63 inches of rain fell at Mt. Pocono; 10.07 at Gouldsboro; 9.08 at Buck Hill. This is contrast to an official 3.69 inches at Willow Grove and 3.34 at Allentown.

The worst flooded creek in Pennsylvania was Brodhead Creek, which took a fearful total of lives—at this writing, 64 dead and 15 missing. This loss was at Canadensis, a camp near Analomink known as Camp Davis, Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg.

Jack Anderson, Eastern Area Director was ordered into the Monroe County area on the afternoon of August 19 to coordinate disaster operations there. Monroe County Civil Defense

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## THEY WENT TO WAR



(Quakertown Free Press Photo)

The State Council of Civil Defense rescue trucks rolled to the eastern flood areas. Three went to Bucks County; one to Montgomery; one to Norristown. All others of the 21-strong fleet were ready to move wherever needed.

### MORE FLOOD REPORTS IN NOVEMBER ISSUE

## A DRINK OF "C. D." WATER



(Stroudsburg Daily Record Photo)

The flood of Brodhead Creek destroyed Stroudsburg's water supply. Civil Defense volunteers, using Federal CD-stockpiled pumps and water, strung 1500 feet of emergency 8-inch pipes and had water in borough homes within 48 hours. The water was usable only for sanitation purposes—CD used radio, newspaper and loudspeakers to warn against drinking without boiling.

## Hurricane Advice To Householders

(Note: Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Civil Defense Director, sent this memorandum on August 11, 1955—during Hurricane Connie's threat—to newspapers of the Commonwealth. Keep it for future reference.)

IF IN A PREDICTED storm path, take the following precautions:

Before high winds begin to blow.

1. Make certain that all children are at home or elsewhere under proper care.

2. Make certain that livestock and pets are under cover or otherwise properly cared for.

3. Put the family automobile in the garage and close the doors. If you have no garage, the vehicle should be parked off the street and well away from trees, utility poles and overhead wires, if possible.

4. Set lawn furniture, children's toys, trash receptacles and similar articles indoors, where they will not be damaged by falling objects or carried away by the wind.

5. Shut up all out-buildings, making certain that doors and windows are tightly closed and fastened.

6. Close exterior window shutters and pull up porch and window awnings.

7. Extinguish all fires in open fireplaces. If household water is pumped by electricity, place extra jars of drinking water in refrigerator and fill tubs with water for fire-fighting and other emergency use.

8. Check to make certain that flashlights, electric lanterns and other emergency lights are in working order.

As high winds begin to blow:

1. Go inside the house, being certain that all children are with you.

2. Close all doors and windows. Also pull curtains and blinds as protection against flying glass.

3. During the height of the storm, remain on lower floors, preferably in interior rooms or on the side away from the wind, where danger from flying glass and falling trees is smallest.

4. Use telephone only for extreme emergencies, such as calling the doctor or fire company. Do not call to report power failures, as utility companies already will know where there is trouble.

5. Do not light fires in open fireplaces and use great care in handling candles and oil or gas lanterns.

6. Remain indoors until perfectly obvious that final storm danger is past. Always remember this: Should

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# STORM WARNINGS AND BULLETINS

THE PRESENT policy of the State Council of Civil Defense regarding Storm Warnings and Bulletins was described by Dr. Richard Gerstell, State Civil Defense Director in an Information Circular released on August 19, 1955.

In this Bulletin Dr. Gerstell said that the State Council of Civil Defense is in constant contact with the Harrisburg office of the United States Weather Bureau. Contact is by telephone and by a special teletypewriter circuit. Thus the State Council is kept informed fully on forecasts and weather conditions.

Dr. Gerstell described the general policy as follows:

(a) County and local Civil Defense Directors will be expected to keep generally informed of possible local storm dangers by means of local Weather Bureau releases made through local news sources, including press, radio and television.

(b) The State Council of Civil Defense promptly will notify all County Directors concerned, by means of telephone, telegraph or other emergency channels, of any and all known, or reliably reported, conditions believed to offer true threat of serious danger within their respective counties. While absolute guarantee of delivery obviously cannot be made, every effort will be exerted in attempts to provide these warnings well in advance of threatened danger and in ample time to permit essential advance preparations for emergency.

(c) In addition to warnings of the specific type referred to in subparagraph (b), immediately above, the State Council of Civil Defense will disseminate to County Directors such special storm bulletins as may be deemed necessary either to supply essential information otherwise not readily obtainable, or to allay fears, or apprehension, arising from spread of misinformation. (An example of this type of bulletin is the August 10, 1955, telegram addressed to all County Directors. The purpose of this message was to provide official information concerning the status of Hurricane Connie and to counter widespread, erroneous reports to the effect that the State would be struck by winds of hurricane force late the same day.)

(d) Local Directors will be expected to rely on their respective County Officers of Civil Defense for relay of storm warnings and bulletins issued by the State Council of Civil Defense.

(e) The guiding principle governing the issuance and dissemination of all storm warnings and bulletins shall be to provide essential information concerning true dangers and to allay fear and apprehension arising from possible false rumors.

It will be the effort of the State Council of Civil Defense, Dr. Gerstell said, to provide County Civil Defense Directors with prompt warning of threatened storm dangers within respective counties and to provide information on storm conditions believed locally unavailable.

He added that during periods of possible widespread danger County Directors may generally assume that lack of warning or bulletin from the State Council means that information available to the Council indicates no serious threat of danger.

It may also mean that the Council has received no information on the subject.

Dr. Gerstell stressed that when a Civil Defense Director is in serious doubt as to the current situation, request for information may be directed to Harrisburg or to the area office concerned.

Prior to the August 18th disaster County Directors who were in areas that appeared, due to the Weather Bureau forecasts, to be in danger, were notified by telephone. Unfortunately, flash flooding is extremely difficult to forecast and there was no indication of this condition in the Pocono Mountain area. Forecasters were very watchful for this situation, however, and all County Directors along the Lehigh and Schuylkill water sheds were given advance warnings.

Now that the State legislature has given Civil Defense Directors added responsibility in the field of natural disasters, it is essential that these directors be informed generally on U. S. Weather Bureau terminology. With regard to wind classification, the following applies:

(a) *Hurricane Alert.* This means that an official hurricane warning (see subparagraph (b), immediately below) is likely to be issued within the next thirty-six (36) hours. In general, hurricane alerts "cover" relatively large areas. These may embrace either the entire State or some major portion of it, such as "that area east of the Susquehanna River." Broadly speaking, a "hurricane alert" is a sort of "precautionary bulletin" of primary interest to those shipping, transportation, industrial and other organizations which require maximum advance notice of possible storm dangers.

(b) *Hurricane Warning.* This means that a hurricane is expected to strike within twenty-four (24) hours. Insofar as possible, such warnings will be issued roughly twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the time the storm is expected to reach maximum intensity, but they should by no means be considered a "definite time indicator," as numerous variable factors may "bring the storm in" either later or earlier than anticipated. Like "hurricane alerts" (see subparagraph (a), immediately above), hurricane warnings generally "cover" relatively large areas, possibly including all or some major portion of the State.

(c) *Wind Classification.* Winds with velocities from 39 to 54 m.p.h. are termed "gale winds"; those from 55 to 72 m.p.h.

are called "whole gale winds"; while those of 73 m.p.h. and above are classed as "hurricane winds." As a rough rule of thumb, it may be assumed that winds in the lower "gale" range will tear off tree limbs and cause similar damage. Those in the upper "gale" range may be expected to cause far more extensive damage to trees, consequent utility line breakage and minor structural damage. Winds with velocities ranging from 60 to 70 m.p.h. usually will "topple" many trees, cause major disruption of wire utilities and sometimes appreciable structural damage. "Hurricane winds," varying more or less in direct proportion to their velocities, may be expected to cause serious and extensive damage to trees, utility lines and structures of different kinds. (It should always be remembered that these rather broad "estimates" are subject to wide variation. For example, when trees are wet and their roots are "loosened" by rain soaking of the ground, winds of roughly 50 m.p.h. velocity may result in widespread "tree toppling." In addition, winds of "gale" and greater velocities almost always cause "freak damage" of various kinds.)

It was emphasized in Dr. Gerstell's Circular that the terminology as indicated herein differs somewhat from that used by the Armed Services. Dr. Gerstell also advised all Civil Defense Directors to distribute publicly the official "Hurricane Precautions for Householders" which you will find printed on page 3 of this issue of the KEYSTONE DEFENDER. Many newspapers of the Commonwealth have already published this document and some Editors have given it front-page coverage. This "Precautions List" is due to be issued in somewhat expanded form.

County Civil Defense Directors were urged by the State Council of Civil Defense to inform area office and the main control, Harrisburg with essential information about localized dangers and disasters of major consequence. An example of this type disaster was given as a recent Ohio explosion that destroyed two buildings and killed about 20 people. County directors were urged to use administrative telephone numbers to submit these reports as follows:

Eastern Area—Quakertown 1400  
Central Area—Lewistown 3381  
Western Area—Butler 5-800  
Harrisburg—Cedar 8-0421 or 8-5151,  
Ext. 2021.

Recently the State Council of Civil Defense submitted forms to all County Civil Defense Directors in which they were asked to submit names of emergency contacts. By this time this information should have been submitted. If you are one of the County Directors who has not complied, please do so.



## Operation of an Emergency Ferry Service

PROBABLY FEW, if any, civil defense directors have prepared for such a contingency as the operation of an emergency Ferry Service. This was a problem faced by Monroe County when the Brodhead Creek swept away all bridges in its better than 30-mile course to the Delaware River.

On August 19 when Brodhead Creek was still a raging torrent, over the banks in places and full to the banks in others, Corporal Richard A. Moll, Fort Holabird, Maryland, on leave from the U. S. Army, troubled over the fact that communications between East Stroudsburg and Stroudsburg no longer existed, along with civil defense volunteers, decided on a daring project. The Corporal's personal radio equipment was carried a mile over debris, rocks and through muck to a likely crossing place near Stokes' Mill on Brodhead Creek. A crossing was made in a 14-foot boat powered by a 25-horsepower motor. The trip was described as a wild battle with whirlpools and currents but the crossing was made and communication was established. The Corporal's personal radio equipment was the sole contact between Stroudsburg and East Stroudsburg (Civil Defense equipment operating in Stroudsburg from August 19 to about August 21).

This crossing opened the possibility of a Ferry Service between the two boroughs as the situation in isolated East Stroudsburg was becoming serious. Shortages of food and other essential supplies were being reported. It was decided by civil defense officials that a Ferry Service would be attempted.

Harold Hosier of Stroudsburg was appointed director of the service. A pass system was set up by the civil defense office and Hosier accepted nobody except essential passengers and supplies. Passes were granted at a desk at Civil Defense Headquarters but after a time, too much confusion developed around this desk and it was moved into another part of the Court House building.

The Civil Defense Ferry Service operated at Stokes' Mill, scene of that first crossing by Corporal Moll, 24 hours a day from August 19, the day after the flood, until August 26. Even after an emergency bridge was completed, it was found that the additional capacity of the Ferry Service was needed.

## THE ROAD TO PHILADELPHIA—AUG. 18th



*The night of August 18—darkness and flood. A typical Eastern Pennsylvania flood scene.* (U. S. Navy Photo)

It was dangerous going in the early days of this service but no lives were lost and the most serious things were a couple duckings. A college professor and his wife told civil defense officials afterward of his adventure on the Civil Defense Ferry. He described the vicious flood current grabbing the boat and the fight of the motor against the current. "Then," he said, "the worst thing happened. A pin sheared and the boat was swept downstream." The operator of the boat managed to grab a tree and another boat rescued them. The Professor said that it was a trip he would never forget.

Civil defense directors may be assured that in a real emergency the unexpected always happens and they are called upon to perform some duties which never occurred to them during days of planning.

## THE PERKIOMEN FLOOD

THE WORST FLOOD in 20 years struck the Perkiomen Valley (Montgomery County) on the night of August 18th. At Perkiomenville the creek was reported at seven feet above normal.

The State Council of Civil Defense dispatched a rescue truck to the lower Perkiomen area. Several persons were evacuated near Schwenksville after their cottage was surrounded by water.

At Palm, where an official 4.27 inches of rain fell in 13 hours, a car was washed into the creek and destroyed. Many bungalows (mostly summer residences) were damaged badly.

Admiral Charles Will, Montgomery County Civil Defense Director, activated the control center during the flood emergency. Michael Scanlon, Deputy, assisted him.



## The Lower Delaware Story

THE DELAWARE RIVER went on its worst rampage in history—40½ feet above normal—on August 19 and 20, 1955. Bucks County had hard-hit communities: Among them, Riegelsville, Upper Black Eddy, Yardley.

There was rescue work to do, mass feeding, debris-cleaning, health and sanitation work. Bucks County Civil Defense was an important part of much of this work. Col. Arthur M. Heritage, U. S. A.-Ret., county head of CD quickly ordered mobilization—and then personally stayed on his feet, despite advancing years, for two days at a time. J. Russell Fell, his deputy, did likewise. The county defense office was one of the busiest places in Bucks County.

The rescue work at Pennington and Treasure Islands has been described in another story of this issue. Much other rescue work was done, all along the swollen river. Five motor-powered boats were sent in by Berks County Civil Defense, supplemented by two army ducks secured by CD from Fort Dix, for rescue work—this in addition to locally-owned boats. After the flood, Bucks County Civil Defense coordinated a program of pumping cellars to relieve the great pressure of flood water. Most of the county's volunteer fire companies participated in this program. To aid the homeless, civil defense secured 500 cots from the State and trucked them into Riegelsville, Upper Black Eddy, Morrisville and New Hope.

Much of the traffic control work and stricken-area guard duty was done by National Guardsmen and Civil Defense Auxiliary Police in Bucks County. Civil Defense in many areas also opened first-aid stations and mass feeding centers. Civil Defense coordinated the typhoid inoculation program in sections of lower Bucks County.

Outstanding, perhaps, was the county radio "ham" system, linking the county control with distressed areas. Many volunteer fire companies had also purchased two-way radio equipment with Federal matching funds.

### Attention—CD Directors

Many of you have submitted articles for use in the DEFENDER which were scheduled to appear in this issue and which, because of the flood news, were not used.

We apologize sincerely to these co-operative directors and assure them of early publication of such material.

## BUCKS COUNTY FLOOD PICTURES



*(Quakertown Free Press Photos)*  
The remains of the bridge over the Delaware River, Point Pleasant.



*Destruction by flood: A home at Coffeetown, located in Bucks County, between Riegelsville and Raubsville.*



## Evacuation of Pocono Mountain Camps

AN ESTIMATED 10,000 children were at summer camps in the parts of Pike and Monroe Counties that were isolated temporarily by the August 18 flood. The parents of these children naturally were apprehensive and swarmed into the Stroudsburg area. They caused serious congestion, especially on the first Sunday following the flood.

Governor Leader sensing this uneasiness on the part of parents decided on a program of voluntary evacuation of these camps.

Ross I. Webb, Western Area Director, was named as coordinator of this program and was flown to Milford (Pike County) to do the job. With him was sent Mrs. Helen Walter, Western Area Welfare Director, and representatives of the Pennsylvania State Police and Greyhound Bus Company.

This was an all-out effort to help distressed parents. Mr. Webb was assigned a helicopter to facilitate movement in rough mountain terrain where many bridges and roads had been washed out. Buses were pulled in from New Jersey and Pennsylvania to help in this great task.

It is emphasized that this program at no time had any element of compulsion. This service was offered by the Commonwealth to allay fears and make swift reunion of parent and child possible.

Upon arriving at Milford, Mr. Webb and Mrs. Walter made swift contacts with camp officials and some camps were evacuated. However, conditions in the area improved steadily within a few days and many camps chose not to evacuate while others elected to move the children by camp-owned facilities.

One big camp, Camp Hagen, located along the Delaware River, north of Shawnee, was evacuated. Many of these children were from the Allentown area and Lehigh County cooperated by having Civil Defense personnel on hand there to receive them. After this evacuation Webb remarked with a grin—"We planned for everything except for that storehouse of souvenirs and the extra trunk of clothing that youngsters accumulate during a summer at camp." The evacuation of these summer camps did not materialize into the tremendous job that it first appeared to be. Much good work was done nevertheless, and it was another instance of the unusual kind of job often faced.

## "Natural Disaster Law"

LEGISLATION which gave a natural disaster fund and natural disaster responsibilities to the State Council of Civil Defense was enacted shortly after the disastrous flood of August 18 and 19.

This legislation amended the Act of March 19, 1951 (Public Law 28) which was entitled "An Act Relating to the Civil Defense of This State and Its Coordination with National Defense" providing for the establishment of a State Council of Civil Defense, local and district counties of Civil Defense Mobile Support Units prescribing the power, duties and immunities thereof and of their personnel authorizing mutual aid compacts and providing penalties. The amendments made the Lieutenant Governor a member of the State Council of Civil Defense duties in connection with natural disasters and providing compensation for accidental injury to certain civil defense volunteers.

The power and duties of the Council now include "To take appropriate action in the event of earthquake, hurricane, flood, fire, explosion, or other natural disaster or catastrophe for the protection of life and property" and "To accept and coordinate assistance provided by Federal agencies in major disasters in accordance with provision of Public Law 875."

The law also provides for the following:

"Compensation for Accidental Injury. All duly enrolled civil defense volunteers who are not eligible to receive benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Law shall be entitled except during a state of war or period of armed conflict within the continental limits of the United States to the following benefits relating to injuries sustained while actually engaged in civil defense or disaster training activities or in or en route to and from civil defense or disaster tests or operations authorized by the Council and carried out in accordance with rules and orders promulgated and adopted by the Council.

A sum of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500) for accidental injury directly causing or leading to death.

A sum not to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) for reimbursement for medical and hospital expenses associated with accidental injury and

Weekly payments of twenty-five dollars (\$25) beginning on the eighth day of disability and continuing for not more than twenty-six weeks for

disability directly arising from accidental injury rendering the individual totally incapable of following his normal gainful pursuits.

All benefits hereby authorized shall be paid out of funds appropriated to the Council Payments shall be made on the basis of claims submitted to the Council through the Bureau of Workmen's Compensation of the Department of Labor and Industry in accordance with rules and orders promulgated and adopted by the Council."

## RURAL CIVIL DEFENSE IN ACTION

ONE OF THE very active rural Civil Defense organizations in the August 18th flood was Barrett Township (Monroe County) under the direction of C. Marshall Reese.

At the height of the flood rescue workers took dozens of families from isolated homes. Many commendations have been sent to Mr. Reese by rescued persons. Some of the rescue work was done by boat and in other cases, ropes were stretched across streams.

Canadensis, a Barrett Township community, was particularly hard-hit. All bridges of the area were washed out. Barrett Township Civil Defense opened emergency shelters and feeding stations and emergency first-aid stations. They also sent out crews to build emergency bridges and these men—many of whom knew little more about bridges than how to cross them—built emergency structures good enough to get Civil Defense supplies and equipment to all areas of the forested township.

The Tobyhanna Signal Depot under command of Col. Bob Glover furnished helicopter assistance to this alert rural organization.

An amusing story came out of the tragedy at Canadensis. When Civil Defense doctors and nurses delivered a child in the Barrett Township High School on August 18th, child and mother were flown to Scranton by helicopter. The Civil Defense Director now reports the first two names given by the mother to this child. The names: "Diane Helicopter."

Recently the DEFENDER staff mailed to nearly all county civil defense directors a complete mailing list of subscribers for correction and return. As a result, we believe that now, our mailing list is fairly accurate.

Mail all corrections to: Editor, KEYSTONE DEFENDER, State Council of Civil Defense, Quakertown, Penna.



## GREATEST FLOOD

(Continued from page 2)

was commanded by Judge Fred W. Davis with Paul Crown as Executive Director.

The Monroe situation was, generally:

A flood on the Delaware River to the East, Lackawaxen River to the Northeast, Wallenpaupack Creek on the Northwest, and Brodhead Creek on the West isolated a big area of Pike and Monroe Counties, including the Borough of East Stroudsburg. Supplies for this isolated area had to be furnished by helicopter.

The Civil Defense organization in the Pocono area functioned from August 18 to August 26 inclusive, when control was turned over to local governmental authorities.

The Lehigh River flooded seriously but, fortunately, not in the record proportions expected by the Weather Bureau. There were flooded areas at Lehigh, Allentown and Easton, among other places. Mass Feeding units of Lehigh County, in charge of Miss Kathleen Mortimer, fed Allentown citizens forced from their homes by flood.

Lehigh County Civil Defense was active, however, helping others. Norman Flores, county director and Lloyd Grammes, Allentown director sent water and supplies to Stroudsburg. The Neuweiler Brewery, Allentown furnished drinking water to the Poconos in beer barrels. Walter Flores of the Allentown Fire Department assisted in "hooking up" the emergency water system in Stroudsburg.

Berks County Civil Defense, always an active, able organization in time of need, also sent much aid to Stroudsburg. Mrs. Marguerite V. Osman, director, dispatched a team of doctors, nurses and nurses' aides on the night of August 19th including Dr. Leroy A. Gehris and Dr. John P. Scully. The group operated from mass care centers at Stroudsburg Methodist and Presbyterian churches. On that same night, August 19, a baby was born in the Methodist church, attended by civil defense doctors and nurses. The hospital was on the other side of swollen Brodhead Creek; there was no bridge.

Easton's serious flood did not come down the Lehigh, but rather the Delaware River. A big area of downtown Easton went under on August 19th and 20th. One of the bridges to Phillipsburg, New Jersey was washed out.

Col. John H. Brubaker, Northampton County Civil Defense Director, stressed the role of auxiliary police in flood work in his county. These civil

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defense police aided in traffic control and in keeping sight-seers from flooded areas.

Col. Brubaker reported that Clifford Sebring, of Pen Argyl who set up an emergency office at Portland, was responsible for much good work along the Delaware River in that area. When the Portland bank opened and then, because of warped doors, couldn't close again, CD police guarded the bank.

Rescue work was undertaken by boat in Easton, Wilson Borough and Forks Township, Brubaker said.

## HURRICANE ADVICE

(Continued from page 3)

the storm's "eye" pass over your house, there may be a sudden dead calm in the area, but this will be followed by more high wind, usually coming from a new direction.

When high winds have finally subsided:

1. Check the house from top to bottom and do what you can to offset damage from wind and water.
2. Check livestock and out buildings and take action as necessary.
3. Check to find out whether or not your neighbors are in need of assistance and do what you can to help them.
4. Travel only as absolutely necessary. Roads may be blocked and your presence may hinder vital relief operations.

5. Still do not use the telephone unless absolutely necessary. Leave the lines open for emergency traffic.

Special Note: Following a storm, downed wires are a source of great danger. It is not safe to go near them or touch the things they are lying on. Only trained line crews should undertake the handling of broken wires. Cleanup and salvage in the immediate vicinity of downed wires must await their removal by utility companies.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of KEYSTONE DEFENDER devotes itself primarily to "random flood highlights" in the field of Civil Defense. Next issue will present summary reports covering emergency activities, not only of various Commonwealth Departments and agencies, but also county and local civil defense organizations.

This report is incomplete; many worthwhile civil defense efforts are not included. Directors are urged to submit material of their organization's activities.

## Some Rainfall Figures

IT WILL be seen that the Pocono Mountain area was the "key" to the August 18th flood after a study of rainfall reports for that day at various Eastern Pennsylvania points:

Palm (Montgomery County)	4.27 inches.
Allentown-Beth.-Easton	3.34 inches
Willow Grove Naval Station	3.69 inches.
Gouldsboro (Wayne County)	10.07 inches
Buck Hill Falls (Monroe)	9.08 inches.
Mt. Pocono (Monroe)	10.63 inches.

## HURRICANE IONE

Eastern Pennsylvania Civil Defense Directors were alerted again on September 19 as Hurricane Ione, described as more intense than Diane, threatened the area. For a time from four to six inches of rain was forecast for much of the area.

Most county and local directors activated control centers and mobilized auxiliary police and rescue crews—including boats. Fortunately, Ione swung out to sea.